

TIMOR INFORMATION SERVICE

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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS INDONESIA IN EAST TIMOR

The Australian government is not really opposed to the Indonesian invasion of East Timor. We outline here two recent events which clearly indicate Australian government thinking.

First there was the secret cable to the Australian government from its ambassador to Indonesia, Richard Woolcott. Excerpts from the cable were published in The Canberra Times 16.1.76. Among other things Woolcott said that Australia should accept the inevitability of East Timor's incorporation into Indonesia and "Indonesia wants to know whether, privately, we still (our emphasis - ed.) sympathise with their objectives even if we cannot condone the means they have adopted in pursuit of it."

A spokesman for the Indonesian embassy in Canberra said the cable was "more or less in line with our view (Canberra Times 17.1.76.)

Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser ordered a stringent investigation into the source of the leak. ASIO was called in to investigate (Sunday Press 18.1.76.)

The cable was released a couple of days before Andrew Peacock was to hold talks with Adam Malik in Jakarta. Malcolm Fraser's statement on the content of the cable was: "It is the government that determines policy. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Peacock has stated policy clearly in relation to Timor. I believe he has done it clearly and well." (The Age 19.1.76.)

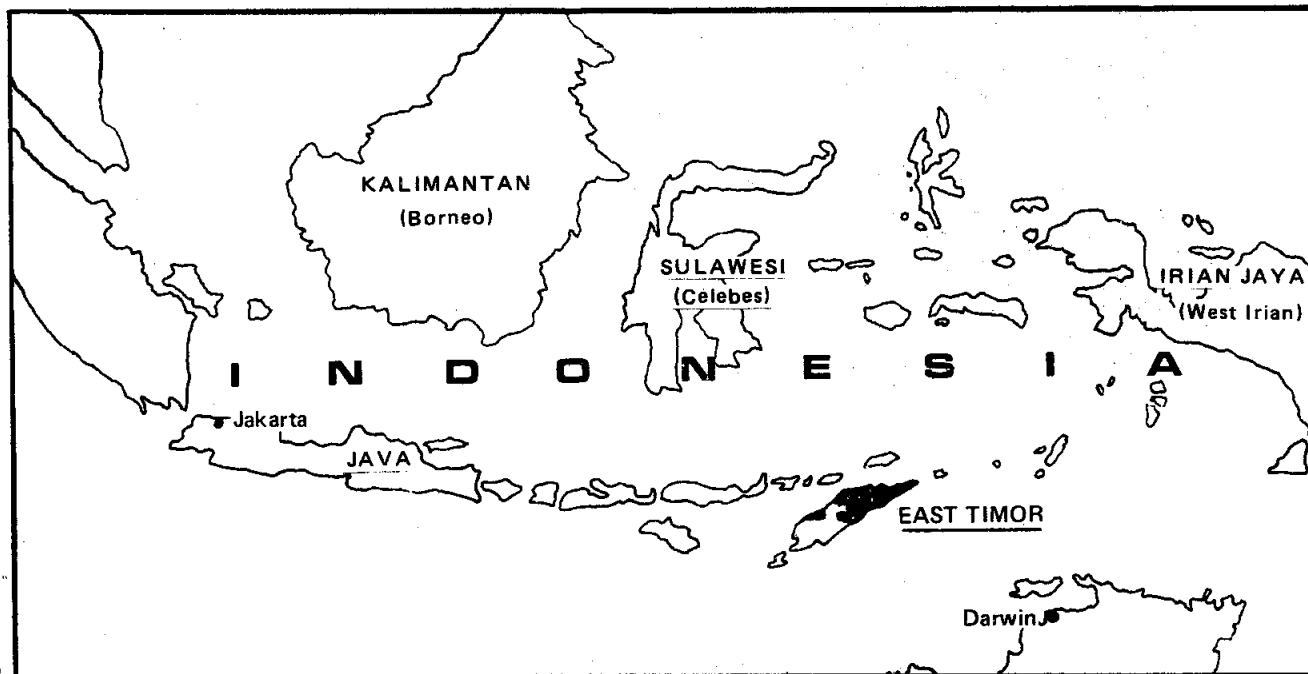
(The Australian newspapers presented Malcolm Fraser's statement sympathetically with headlines such as "Timor Advice Rejected" (Canberra Times 19.1.76) and "P.M. Rejects Timor Advice" (The Age 19.1.76) Fraser's statement is not a "rejection." - ed.)

The second incident was the Australian government's seizure of the Fretilin radio transmitter in Darwin.

The U.N. envoy Winspeare Guicciardi spent three days in East Timor. His transport was handled by the Indonesian government. He was not taken to Fretilin held areas; he met only members of the so-called "provisional government" in Dili. According

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from Retrieval No. 28



RADIO MESSAGES FROM EAST TIMOR

We print these messages as received, occasionally adding (in brackets) possible corrections to spelling or grammar.

CST - Central Standard Time; A.E.T.A. Australian East Timor Association.

MESSAGE 30 Received Northern Territory Radio, 3.45 pm. CST; received Dr. Bill Roberts, 8.00 pm Melbourne time, Telecom. 14-1-76.

"12 JANUARY 1976 RADIO AUSTRALIA BROADCASTED THAT ADAM MALIK REFUSED ENTRY OF AUSTRALIAN HUMANITARIAN AID TO EAST TIMOR ALLEGING THAT HE HAS SENT ALREADY INDONESIAN RED CROSS. THAT STATEMENT OF MALIK'S DEEPLY SCANDALISED THE PEOPLE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR WHICH STRONGLY REJECT MALIK'S WITCH DOCTORING AND ENERGETIC FIGHTING WITH SOLDIERS. HOW CAN MALIK THINK ABOUT HUMANITARIAN AID TO EAST TIMOR WHEN HE IS DROPPING CHEMICAL BOMBS AND MURDERING CHILDREN AND BABIES. AGAINST THE VANDALIC JAVANESE EXPANSION THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR ARE MORE AND MORE DECIDED TO FIGHT TILL THE END."

ALARICO FERNANDES, MINISTER FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY. 14-1-76.

MESSAGE 31 Received Darwin Radio 7.00 pm CST, 14-1-76.

"INDICATION FRETILIN FORCES HAVE RETAKEN LIQUICA MAUBARA AND BAZARTETE INDONESIAN FORCES WITHDRAWN BY SEA EVERY NIGHT THERE IS GUERILLA FIGHTING IN DILI EVERY NIGHT GUERILLA FIGHTING IN AILEU."

ALARICO FERNANDES, MINISTER FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY. 14-1-76.

MESSAGE 32 Received via Telecom Darwin by Dr. Bill Roberts, Chairman, A.E.T.A. 3.50 pm. Melbourne time, 17-1-76.

"INDONESIA IS FABRICATING A PROPAGANDA OF CONTROLLING EAST TIMOR HAS PREPARED AN EXTENSIVE LIST OF PLACES IN WHICH THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF UNITED NATIONS CAN VISIT WITH SAFETY WHEN HE COMES TO EAST TIMOR. FOUR PLACES PARTICULARLY ENCLAVE OF OECUSSI, THE ISLAND OF ATAURO WHERE THE COLONIAL PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT REFUGIATED AND CITY OF DILI AND BACAU TAKEN BY AIR AND SEA FORCES SURROUNDED (SURROUNDINGS) OF THE TWO CITIES WERE DEVASTATED BY CANNON AND SHIPS AND TANKS AND MORTAR FIRE AND SO ON. WHY DOES INDONESIA WORRY WITH PLACES THAT SPECIAL ENVOY OF UN. WHY DESPERATE ATTEMPTS JAKARTA GOVERNMENT IN BOYCOTTING THE MEETING OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF DRET. ADAM MALIK KNOWS WHY HE IS TAKING SUCH DECISIONS. THE PEOPLE DECIDED TO FIGHT TO THE END. EVEN WITH A LOT OF MASSACRES (BY THE INDONESIANS) ITS FIRM WILL OF LIBERATION FROM ANY COLONIALISM IS UN-BREAKABLE ONLY BY DEATH WE CAN UNDERSTAND HEROIC RESISTANCE OF EAST TIMOR TO THE AGGRESSION OF INDONESIA THAT MALIK SAID OUR COUNTRY OF 130 MILLION INHABITANTS "

HIGHEST REGARDS

NICOLAU REIS LOBATO, PRIME MINISTER. 17-1-76.

MESSAGE 33 Received Melbourne, 21-1-76, by Dr. Bill Roberts, Chairman A.E.T.A.

"HUMAN AND CHILDREN ARE STILL BEING MASSACRED BY INDONESIAN INVADING FORCES. THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR ARE STILL OFFERING HEROIC RESISTANCE IN DEFENCE OF HIS COUNTRY EAST TIMOR. ALONG WITH THE MASSACRES THE INDONESIAN INVADING FORCES ARE FORCING CAPTURED RADIO ANNOUNCERS TO APPEAL ON THE RADIO FOR THE PEOPLE TO SURRENDER. THE PEOPLE DO NOT LISTEN AND ARE USING MORE DECIDEDLY NOT ONLY GUNS BUT ALSO ALL SORTS OF TRADITIONAL WEAPONARIES TO FIGHT INDONESIAN AGGRESSORS. THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR DO NOT WANT TO SUBMIT TO THE JAVANESE DOMINATION OR ANY OTHER. FIGHTING EAST TIMOR STILL ON. INDEPENDENCE OR DEATH."

ALARICO FERNANDES, INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY MINISTER, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR.

MESSAGE 34 Received Telecom-Darwin, 22-1-76, 5.30 pm. CST, for Dr. Bill Roberts, Chairman A.E.T.A.

"WE MANIFEST OUR WISH TO MEET THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL ENVOY AS FORSEEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. WE SEE THE MANOUVRE OF INDON-

ESIA IN BOYCOTTING OUR CONTACTS WITH THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE UNITED NATIONS MR. GUICCIARDI ALLEGING UNITED NATIONS JUSTIFIED REASONS."

NICOLAU LOBATO, PRIME MINISTER, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR

MESSAGE 35 Received Telecom-Darwin, 24-1-76, a.m. CST for Dr. Bill Roberts, Chairman, A.E.T.A.

"THREE DAYS THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAVE BEEN IN EAST TIMOR BUT IT WAS THREE DAYS OF ABSOLUTE SILENCE BECAUSE THE INDONESIAN FORCES COULD NOT ACHIEVE SECURITY OVER THE PLACES THE ENVOY VISITED. AS WE FORESAW THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT EXPECTED TO BOYCOTT THE MEETING OF THE SPECIAL UNITED NATIONS ENVOY WHICH FRETILIN SAW THE SPECIAL ENVOY WAS UNABLE TO VISIT AT LEAST FOUR LOCALITIES INDICATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR WHERE THE PEOPLE GATHERED TO MANIFEST ITS DETERMINATION TO FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE ITS REPARATION AGAINST THE SHAMEFUL AGGRESSION OF INDONESIA TO EAST TIMOR. ALL THOSE MANOEUVRES OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT ONLY TO PROVE IT DOES NOT CONTROL THE TERRITORY AND HAVE NOT ANY SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR AS WELL TO REALIZE THE PROJECT OF THE INTEGRATION BY FORCE OF EAST TIMOR. THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR WILL FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN FOR ITS TOTAL AND COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE UNDER THE VANGUARD THE FRETILIN."

NICOLAU LOBATO, PRIME MINISTER, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR.

MESSAGE 36 Received Telecom-Darwin, 27-1-76, 12 noon CST, for Dr. Bill Roberts Chairman A.E.T.A.

"THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA COMMEMORATE TODAY THE 188 ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRALIA. THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR IN SPITE OF HARD FIGHTING AGAINST INDONESIAN INVADING FORCES SALUTE THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE IN GENERAL AND STUDENTS AND WORKERS ESPECIALLY. THE INDONESIAN INVADING FORCES ARE CONTINUALLY MASSACRING THE CIVIL POPULATION SACKING AND BURNING HOUSES DOWN AND VIOLATING YOUNG GIRLS DESTROYING ALL THINGS VANDALICALLY EVEN THE STORES ESPECIALLY THOSE FOR CHILDREN AND BABIES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY INDONESIAN FORCES. THE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE AND EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE IS IN EVIDENCE SINCE THE LAST WORLD WAR SO WE APPEAL ONCE MORE TO THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE FOR MORE ACTIVE SUPPORT TO THE EAST TIMOR PEOPLE. THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR ARE MORE THAN EVER DECIDED TO FIGHT THE INVADERS IN DEFENCE OF ITS COUNTRY TO THE LAST MAN."

ALARICO FERNANDES, MINISTER FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR.

MESSAGE 37 Received Telecom-Darwin, 28-1-76, 8.00 am. CST, for Dr. Bill Roberts Chairman, A.E.T.A.

"SINCE YESTERDAY MORNING AT 3 A.M. UP TO 5 P.M. EIGHT INDONESIAN WARSHIPS AND TWO PLANES WERE BOMBARDING INTENSELY THE AREAS OF BETANO PORT. ABOUT 9 A.M. A LOT OF INDONESIAN SOLDIERS HAVE DISEMBARKED AND PROGRESSING TO THE VILLAGE OF SAME. INDONESIA, INSTEAD OF RESPECTING THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM EAST TIMOR ARE CONTINUOUSLY INTENSIFYING ITS ATTACKS AND MASSACRING THE POPULATION. ONCE MORE WE APPEAL TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE IMMEDIATELY IN THE WAY TO STOP THE INDONESIAN AGGRESSION. THE WORLD SHOULD NOT BE INDIFFERENT TO THE CRIMES CARRIED OUT BY THE INDONESIANS AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR."
HIGHEST REGARDS,

NICOLAU LOBATO, PRIME MINISTER, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR.

MESSAGE 38 Received Telecom-Darwin 11.20 am. CST, 29-1-76, for Dr. Bill Roberts, Chairman A.E.T.A.

"IN THE NAME OF 50,000 WHO DIED TO ASSIST THE AUSTRALIAN TROOPS DURING THE WAR THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR REQUEST THE RETURN OF THE RADIO TRANSMITTER TO THE CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR IN DARWIN."

THE MOTHERS OF EAST TIMOR.

MESSAGE 39 Received Telecom-Darwin 5.00 pm CST, 29-1-76, for Dr. Bill Roberts Chairman A.E.T.A.

"SAME 28.1.76: INDONESIAN WARSHIPS ARE CONTINUALLY BOMBARDING THE AREA OF BETANO.

INDONESIAN SOLDIERS ON WAY TO SAME VILLAGE MET STRONG RESISTANCE FROM FRETILIN FORCES WHO DROVE THEM BACK TO THE BEACH. ONE INDONESIAN CHOPPER WAS HOVERING VERY LOW TO COLLECT THEIR DEAD.

BARABO 27.1.76: ABOUT 2000 INDONESIAN SOLDIERS, EXCLUSIVELY JAVANESE, CROSSED THE BORDER AND STATIONED AT MARABO DROVE TO BANARO VILLAGE. THEY ARE MASSACRING THE CIVIL POPULATION BURNING HOUSES DOWN AND SEARCHING THEIR PROPERTIES,

THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR ARE DECIDED TO RESIST AGAINST THE VANDALIC AGGRESSION OF INDONESIA TILL DEATH. WE APPEAL TO ALL GOVERNMENTS AND ALL INTERNATIONAL LOVERS OF PEACE AND FREEDOM TO ACT IN THE WAY TO STOP THE SHAMEFULL AGGRESSION OF INDONESIA IN EAST TIMOR

WE APPEAL ONCE MORE TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT (?RESTORE) THE RADIO TRANSMITTER TO THE CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR IN DARWIN."

ALARICO FERNANDES, MINISTER FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR. 29-1-76.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS. JANUARY 8 - JANUARY 29, 1976 - as reported in Melbourne Press

January 8 - Portugal announced it is prepared to send troops to East Timor as part of a United Nations peace force. (The Age, 12-1-76)

January 9 - Adam Malik visited Dili and Atauro. He told people in Dili that "History will unite us - - "(The Herald, 10-1-76). Malik was also reported to have said "no power on earth can prevent the integration of East Timor into Indonesia." (Canberra Times, 16-1-76)

ABC Reporter Tony Joyce, who went to Dili with Malik, said the U.N. envoy Guicciardi would have little chance of determining the true situation in the territory because the trip would be carefully stage-managed. (The Age, 12-1-76).

Demonstrations against Indonesian aggression in East Timor were conducted in Hobart during Davis Cup matches between Australia and Indonesia. (The Herald, 10-1-76).

January 11 - An office of the Democratic Republic of East Timor (DRET) was opened in Melbourne (The Age, 12-1-76)

ALP Senator Primmer criticized the head of the Foreign Affairs Department, Alan Renouf, claiming that the Department had "covered up" for the Indonesian Government. (The Age, 12-1-76)

Chris Santos, Information Officer for the D.R.E.T. in Melbourne said Indonesians were using chemical warfare in Timor. (See messages 25, 26, 28, 29, in T,I,S, No. 6). (The Age, 12-1-76).

January 13 - The Indonesian Government had banned the Australian Council for Overseas Aid and the International Red Cross from dispensing aid in Timor. (The Age, 14-1-76).

The Indonesian Government confirmed its ban on Australian reporters Michael Richardson and Bruce Wilson. (The Age, 14-1-76).

January 14 - Adam Malik said in Jakarta that the "provisional government" in Dili had invited Indonesia to declare its sovereignty over the territory. Malik said such a declaration could be made be a Presidential decision, a special session of Parliament or by the Peoples Consultative Assembly. (The Age, 15-1-76).

Reports from Fretilin and pro-Indonesian sources indicated that Fretilin had regained control of Alieu. (The Age, 15-1-76)

Radio Hanoi announced that North Vietnam pledged its support for Fretilin's struggle to control the territory. (The Age, 15-1-76).

January 15 - Report of an article in the influential Indonesian daily "Merdeka", critical of Indonesian government action in East Timor. The article criticized the government's policy of labelling as "communist" any

movement that was not anti-communist. It also said that the Indonesian Government had not considered that Fretilin may be a progressive and patriotic party.
(The Herald, 15-1-76)

The "Merdeka" article could not have been published in Indonesia unless it had the support of a powerful group of generals says Ernst Utrecht, an Indonesian in Australia and formerly an adviser to President Sukarno. He said the article indicated there were big divisions in the ruling group of Indonesia over the Timor issue.
(The Australian, 16-1-76).

January 16 - The Canberra Times printed excerpts from a secret cable to the Australian Government from its ambassador to Indonesia, Richard Woolcott. Woolcott urged the government "to accept the inevitability of East Timor's incorporation into Indonesia." He said, "Indonesia wants to know whether, privately, we still (our emphasis - ed.) sympathise with their objectives even if we cannot condone the means they have adopted in pursuit of it." He also said Indonesia wanted the Australian Government to redress "anti-Indonesian pro-Fretilin bias" in Australia.
(Canberra Times, 16-1-76).

January 19 - Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrew Peacock held discussions on Timor with Adam Malik in Jakarta.
(The Age, 20-1-76).

The U.N. envoy, Guicciardi, left for Timor from Jakarta.
(The Age, 20-1-76).

January 20 - Andrew Peacock claims that he received from Indonesia "an indication that the people of East Timor would be allowed to determine their own future" and that there would be "an act of self-determination in East Timor."
(The Age, 21-1-76)

A barge carrying relief and medical supplies left Darwin for East Timor. The barge was organized by the Australian Society for Inter-country Aid Timor (ASIAT).
(The Age, 20-1-76).

It was announced that the Transport Workers Union had black-banned services to the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra. The A.C.T. Trades and Labour Council had asked affiliated unions to withdraw all services from the embassy.
(The Sun, 21-1-76)

January 21 - The U.S.A. announced it will double its military aid to Indonesia in 1976. A U.S. State Department official said, "In terms of the bilateral relations between the U.S. and Indonesia we are more or less condoning the incursion into East Timor."
(The Australian, 22-1-76).

The ASIAT barge returned to Darwin apparently through engine trouble.
(The Age, 23-1-76).

January 22 - The Australian Government refused permission for the ASIAT barge to make a second attempt to reach East Timor.
(The Australian, 23-1-76).

January 23 - U.N. envoy Guicciardi arrived in Bali after 3 days in East Timor. He did not speak with Fretilin leaders in East Timor. (He only visited areas controlled by Indonesia - ed.)
(The Sun, 24-1-76).

January 25 - The Fretilin radio transmitter in Darwin was confiscated by Commonwealth police. The order for the seizure was given by Prime Minister Fraser.
(The Age, 29-1-76)

January 26 - The U.N. envoy Guicciardi said the Australian Government's seizure of the Fretilin radio made his task of entering Fretilin areas of East Timor very difficult.
(The Age, 27-1-76)

January 27 - Jim Dunn (former Australian Consul to Dili (1962-64) and now director of the foreign affairs section of the Legislative Research Service) said that by its actions on Timor, the Australian government was in danger of being called an accomplice of Indonesia.
(The Herald, 28-1-76)

January 28 - Indonesian forces launched an attack on the south coast town of Betano. Naval bombardment was followed by troops disembarking and moving northwards towards Same. (See Messages 37,39)
(The Herald, 28-1-76)

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to his Indonesian hosts, the envoy was unable to go to D.R.E.T. areas for "technical reasons."

A cable was sent to Guicciardi on January 12 by Chris Santos, D.R.E.T. Information Officer in Australia, offering to help the envoy reach D.R.E.T. territory in East Timor. At last report (29.1.76) Guicciardi never received the cable in Jakarta. (personal communication.)

After his visit to East Timor, and despite never receiving the above-mentioned cable, Guicciardi, through Jose Ramos Horta in New York, contacted Fretilin representative in Darwin, Tony Bello. Bello was in contact with Fretilin leaders in East Timor through a radio transmitter. Guicciardi rang Bello on the night of January 24 saying he was willing to contact Fretilin leaders and enquired about the possibility of a plane being arranged in Darwin to fly to East Timor.

The following morning Tony Bello was on his way by car to transmit a message to Fretilin about Guicciardi but was stopped by four carloads of police and two Telecom Australia officials. The radio transmitter was confiscated. (The Australian 27.1.76.)

The radio was seized with the official reason that the operator did not have a license and that his transmissions were interfering with a radio band used for emergency services. However, the radio had been operating since early December and police who seized the radio told Tony Bello that they had been aware he had been broadcasting since then and all calls had been monitored. (C.I.E.T. Press Release 26.1.76.)

The government maintained a silence about the seizure. The Sun (Melb.) 28.1.76 reported that "Mr Peacock's department would not comment on the seizure, saying it was a matter for the Postal and Telecommunications Minister, Mr Garland. Mr Garland's department said it was a Foreign Affairs matter."

According to "The Age" (29.1.76) Malcolm Fraser gave the order to seize the radio. The Age also claimed that Andrew Peacock endorsed the proposal and that Vic. Garland was alerted to the planned raid.

The Secretary of the Campaign for Independent East Timor (C.I.E.T.) Denis Freney said he had been informed by a senior official in the Foreign Affairs Department that Andrew Peacock had agreed to close down the Fretilin radio transmitter during his discussions with Adam Malik in Jakarta. (C.I.E.T. Press Release 27.1.76.)

The U.N. envoy was reported to have said that the seizure of the radio had made his job more difficult. (The Age 27.1.76.) U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim asked the Australian government to help restore communications with Fretilin leaders in East Timor. The Australian government replied by suggesting that the U.N. use the communications facilities of a Portuguese destroyer in East Timorese waters (The Age 29.1.76.)

The C.I.E.T. in Darwin made a formal application for a radio license for Fretilin representative Tony Bello. (C.I.E.T. Press Release 27.1.76.) That license has not yet been granted.

The Australian government's action against the Fretilin radio clearly illustrates its anti-Fretilin policy. Given the reality of the now two month-old Indonesian invasion of East Timor, this Australian government's action can only be seen as support for the military takeover of East Timor.

J. Waddingham

Timor Information Service Newsletter No. 7. Compiled and produced by John Waddingham, Shonny Dryden, Mary Considine & Marg Maynard.

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